

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

Please cancel claim 14 without prejudice.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

an interface connectable to a network, said interface configured to transmit information via a frame in said network, said frame comprising a plurality of packets, wherein at least one of said packets has (i) a header section having a plurality of identification portions, (ii) a header error portion, and (iii) a label portion located before said header error portion and (iv) a payload error portion.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said network comprises one of a Synchronous Optical Network and a Synchronous Digital Hierarchy fiber optic network.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein (i) said header error portion is configured to store a first error check information of said header section and (ii) said

payload error portion is configured to store a second error check
5 information of a payload area of said packet, said second error
check information being independent of said header section.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising a plurality of nodes coupled to said
network, wherein one or more of said plurality of nodes is an
upstream node configured to transfer said frame and one or more of
5 said plurality of nodes is a downstream node configured to
determine that said upstream node is faulty based on said payload
error portion.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 5, wherein said one or more downstream nodes is further
configured to perform a discard of said at least one packet upon
detecting an error.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 5, wherein each of said plurality of nodes is configured to
determine a data error in response to said payload error portion of
said at least one packet.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to
claim 7, wherein said at least one packet further comprises a first

address portion having one or more addresses located before said header error portion.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said at least one packet further comprises a data identifier located before said header error portion and configured to identify a data type.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprises a data payload.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprises an address portion configured to store one or more addresses.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprises a control word configured to control said at least one packet.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said at least one packet further comprises an identity portion configured to identify a destination node of said network.

14. (CANCELED)

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said label portion comprises a Multi-Protocol Label Switching label portion.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

one or more nodes coupled to a network, each of said nodes being configured to receive and transmit one or more of a plurality of packets, at least one of said packets comprising (i) a first portion configured to store payload error information, (ii) a header length, and (iii) a second portion configured to store header error information and (iv) a label portion located before said header error information.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for transmitting a plurality of packets between two or more nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

(A) adding a header section having a plurality of identification portions, and a header error portion and a label portion located before said header error portion to each of said plurality of packets received at an upstream node of said nodes;

(B) adding a payload error portion to each of said packets without said payload error portion received at said upstream node; and

(C) transmitting said plurality of packets in a frame to a downstream node of said nodes.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim
17, wherein said network comprises a fiber optic network.

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim
17, wherein (i) said header error portion is configured to store a
first error check information of said header section and (ii) said
payload error portion is configured to store a second error check
information of a payload area of said packet.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 17, wherein said downstream node is further configured to perform the step of:

discarding at least one of said packets upon detecting an
error in said at least one packet.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim
17, further comprising the step of:

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framing at least one of said packets with a Simple Data Link protocol including a packet length portion and a packet length error portion.
